

ABSTRACT

Methods and instrumentation for vertebral interbody fusion are provided. Sleeve assemblies can be provided with a reduced width portion adjacent the distal end to limit the amount of retraction of the surrounding vascular and neural structures required for the procedure. A sleeve assembly can be provided with a guide sleeve removably engaged to a guide sleeve housing. The guide sleeve can be removed during surgery to improve the surgeon's viewing of the operative site while the guide sleeve housing maintains disc space distraction. Methods and instruments for inserting and using the guide sleeve housing are also provided.